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W/more*

shape. As seen, for example, in FIGs 1-3, the coating 16a(b) on electrode leads 18a(b) is smooth; it is not deformed. Furthermore, the negative electrode lead does not contain burrs. Therefore, the '505 patent does not anticipate claims 25-31, 33-40 or 49; so that this ground for rejection should be withdrawn.

Similarly, the examiner rejected claims 25-28 and 35-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,004,693 (the “‘693 patent”). Reconsideration is respectfully requested. The ‘693 patent does not disclose a non-aqueous battery containing a negative electrode lead that is coated with a sealant resin, such that at least a portion of the coating has an uneven shape. As seen, for example, in FIGs 1-3, the coating 16a(b) on electrode leads 18a(b) is smooth; it is not deformed. Furthermore, the negative electrode lead does not contain burrs. Therefore, the '505 patent does not anticipate claims 25-28 35-40 or 49, so that this ground for rejection should be withdrawn.

Finally, the examiner rejected claims 25, 29, 31 and 32, ostensibly the claims directed to embodiments where the heat welding layer is an acid denatured polyolefin, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious in light of the '505 patent. Applicant believes that this rejection should be limited to a rejection of claim 32, the only claim reciting that the heat welding layer is an acid denatured polyolefin. Regardless, reconsideration is respectfully requested. The '505 patent does not disclose or suggest a non-aqueous battery containing a negative electrode lead that is coated with a sealant resin, so that at least a portion of the coating has an uneven shape. As seen, for example in FIGs 1-3, the coating 16a(b) on electrode leads 18a(b) is smooth; it is not deformed. *A fortiori*, the '505 patent does not disclose or suggest such a coating having a heat welding layer formed of an acid denatured polyolefin. Therefore, the '505 patent would not have made obvious claims 25, 29, 31 or 32, so that this ground for rejection should be withdrawn.

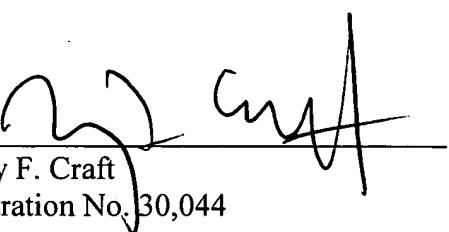
CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendment and remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance, so that a prompt and favorable response is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

SONNENSCHEIN NATH & ROSENTHAL

May 1, 2003

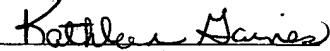
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